

# U.S. Tells What It Expects Walker to Say on Spy Ring

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SAN FRANCISCO, March 9 — Since John A. Walker Jr. was arrested last year, he has remained a tantalizing puzzle, unwilling to comment publicly about his decision to become a Soviet spy and recruit his son and brother into espionage.

But the public silence is expected to end within the next few weeks, and Federal prosecutors are now offering a preview of Mr. Walker's testimony at the trial of his colleague, Jerry A. Whitworth, accused of being the fourth member of the Navy spy ring.

The preview is contained in court papers recently filed in Federal District Court here. The documents provide new details of how Mr. Walker says he recruited Mr. Whitworth, a radioman who has since retired from the Navy. The papers portray Mr. Whitworth as a man who became an international spy without knowing he was directly aiding the Soviet Union, and who was later threatened with violence when he discussed ending his spying career.

Jury selection is to continue this week in Mr. Whitworth's trial. Prosecutors and defense lawyers are in agreement that Mr. Walker's appearance on the witness stand will be a turning point.

## Walker's Expected Testimony

The papers, an account of Mr. Walker's expected testimony, were apparently derived from interviews with Federal law-enforcement officials after he confessed in a plea agreement late last year.

The Government says that Mr. Walker, a retired warrant officer, will testify that he provided Mr. Whitworth with hundreds of thousands of dollars in exchange for secret military information, including details about the Navy's most sensitive codes.

The court papers filed by prosecutors say Mr. Whitworth, who has pleaded not guilty, will be described by Mr. Walker as a "fickle" spy who wavered about whether to remain in the espionage operation.

According to the documents, Mr. Walker is to testify that Mr. Whitworth, who left the Navy in the early 1980's, considered finding a job at the Central Intelligence Agency and other organizations offering access to classified material that could be passed on to Soviet agents.

Prosecutors say that Mr. Walker will testify that he recruited Mr. Whitworth in the 1970's without mentioning that the Navy secrets would be passed directly to the Soviet Union.

"Walker did not tell Whitworth that Walker was dealing directly with the Soviets, only in substance that the information was being sold on the black market," the court papers say. "Walker hinted to Whitworth that or-

ganized criminal groups dealt in military secrets just like they dealt in drugs and other forms of contraband."

"Eventually, however, according to Walker, Whitworth clearly became aware that Walker was dealing with the Soviets, and Whitworth expressed various forms of concern about this fact," the papers add.

## Walker Made Threats

The two men agreed on a story to be used should Mr. Walker be observed making contact with Soviet officials, according to the Government. They were to say "that they were not dealing with the Soviets but with a private intelligence organization," the court papers assert. "And this is precisely what John Walker said to F.B.I. agents following his arrest."

Prosecutors say Mr. Walker had told officials that he threatened Mr. Whitworth if he tried to leave the espionage operation without permission of the Soviet handlers.

"He warned Whitworth that in international espionage, one could not say one thing and then at the last minute do another," the court papers say. "Walker implied that failure to follow through as promised could result in violence."

That disclosure could be of use to defense lawyers, who might acknowledge espionage activities but portray Mr. Whitworth as fearing for his safety if he tried to stop. The lawyers have said their defense will be based largely on an attack on the credibility of Mr. Walker, whose own children have described him as manipulative.

Mr. Walker is expected to face a fierce cross-examination, and defense lawyers will almost surely accuse Mr. Walker of falsely accusing Mr. Whitworth in an effort to win favor from prosecutors. Mr. Walker pleaded guilty and promised to testify against Mr. Whitworth in exchange for leniency for his son, Michael Walker, a Navy yeoman.

Michael Walker has already pleaded guilty. John Walker's brother, Arthur, a retired Navy lieutenant commander, was convicted of espionage at a trial last year.

The Government's court papers also say that Mr. Walker will tell a jury that Mr. Whitworth frequently vacillated about providing military secrets to the Soviet Union.

He is accused of joining Mr. Walker in a spy ring that has been described by Federal officials as the most damaging espionage operation uncovered in the United States in 30 years.

The Government says Mr. Whitworth provided the Soviet Union with the knowledge needed to create a replica of Navy code machines. A replica might permit the Soviet military to read secret American military communications, prosecutors have said.